



SHARON

Norfolk County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Sharon is a growing town of 16,000 people midway between Boston and Providence. An active network of civic organizations, shared appreciation of the diversity of its population and a cherished history make Sharon a vibrant community.

The community spirit of Sharon residents is exemplified by a recent vote at Town Meeting. In May, 1993, townspeople of all ages voted overwhelmingly to support a school addition despite its burden on taxpayers. An elderly couple proudly told a representative of a local newspaper: "Tell them we voted for the override".

The cohesiveness of this community is balanced by the town's openness to newcomers. Recently, a local Rabbi was one of the driving forces behind Sharon's welcome of the Islamic Center of New England which broke ground here for its new religious and social new headquarters. Moreover, Sharon has a strong commitment to METCO and a Sharon resident who is the local METCO coordinator is a strong candidate for Norfolk County teacher of the year.

Years ago at the local railroad station, there was a sign, which has long since disappeared, which proudly proclaimed: "Sharon, a nice place to live because it's naturally beautiful". Though the sign is gone, Sharon remains a place of natural beauty. It is the site of Massachusetts Audubon Society's first wildlife sanctuary, 350 acre Lake Massapoag, and Borderland State Park. Despite recent development, the town has maintained through creative planning and zoning much of the green space and sparkle that made it a popular summer resort before World War II. However Sharon's deepest beauty and strength, residents feel, comes from the community spirit of its diverse population.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Norwood on the north, Canton on the northeast, Stoughton on the east, Easton on the southeast, Mansfield on the south, Foxborough on the west, and Walpole on the west and northwest. Sharon is 9 miles west of Brockton, 19 miles south of Boston, and 208 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 24.18 sq. miles

Land Area: 23.31 sq. miles

Population: 15,517

Density: 666 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Blue Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....49.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Mansfield, Norwood

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 784-1515

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1765

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	10,057		
Democrats	4,356	43.3	%
Republicans	1,210	12.0	%
Other parties	10	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,481	44.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Sharon town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	17,408	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	17,408	100.0
Male.....	8,404	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	194	1.1
Female.....	9,004	51.7	Mexican.....	17	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,218	7.0	Puerto Rican.....	46	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,607	9.2	Cuban.....	19	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,564	9.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	112	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	1,169	6.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	17,214	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	392	2.3	White alone.....	15,541	89.3
25 to 34 years.....	1,310	7.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,306	19.0	Total population.....	17,408	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,268	18.8	In households.....	17,335	99.6
55 to 59 years.....	1,010	5.8	Householder.....	5,934	34.1
60 to 64 years.....	668	3.8	Spouse.....	4,437	25.5
65 to 74 years.....	1,002	5.8	Child.....	6,211	35.7
75 to 84 years.....	676	3.9	Own child under 18 years.....	5,103	29.3
85 years and over.....	219	1.3	Other relatives.....	451	2.6
Median age (years).....	39.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	129	0.7
18 years and over.....	12,152	69.8	Nonrelatives.....	302	1.7
Male.....	5,767	33.1	Unmarried partner.....	122	0.7
Female.....	6,385	36.7	In group quarters.....	73	0.4
21 years and over.....	11,769	67.6	Institutionalized population.....	62	0.4
62 years and over.....	2,272	13.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	11	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,897	10.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	808	4.6	Total households.....	5,934	100.0
Female.....	1,089	6.3	Family households (families).....	4,930	83.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,686	45.3
One race.....	17,194	98.8	Married-couple family.....	4,437	74.8
White.....	15,659	90.0	With own children under 18 years.....	2,452	41.3
Black or African American.....	591	3.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	393	6.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	192	3.2
Asian.....	846	4.9	Nonfamily households.....	1,004	16.9
Asian Indian.....	315	1.8	Householder living alone.....	867	14.6
Chinese.....	327	1.9	Householder 65 years and over.....	458	7.7
Filipino.....	28	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,773	46.7
Japanese.....	11	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,331	22.4
Korean.....	71	0.4	Average household size.....	2.92	(X)
Vietnamese.....	27	0.2	Average family size.....	3.25	(X)
Other Asian ¹	67	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	6,026	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	5,934	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	92	1.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	20	0.3
Some other race.....	74	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	214	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	5,934	100.0
White.....	15,833	91.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,340	90.0
Black or African American.....	661	3.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	594	10.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	60	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.03	(X)
Asian.....	933	5.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.91	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	8	-			
Some other race.....	134	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 102

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Sharon is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 27 and Interstate Route 95 and U.S. Route 1, which both run NE-SW between State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495, the inner and outer belts around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston. Travel time to Back Bay Station: 20-29 minutes; 518 MBTA parking spaces--280 for Sharon residents with special stickers.

Bus

Sharon is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Kendall Whaling Museum

27 Everett Street

(781) 784-5642

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Sharon Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.